



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

LEAPING OF A HEMIRAMPHID.

The synentognathous fishes comprise various elongated marine forms, and the remarkable flying fishes which make long excursions through the air supported by their greatly enlarged pectoral fins. It is interesting that the habit of leaping in the air is common throughout the group and therefore, may reasonably be supposed to have been possessed by the ancestors of the flying fishes before the fin development which has made it pre-eminent among these.* Or in other words, habit has preceded correlated structure in this case. The half-beaks are the modern synentognathi which apparently approach most closely to the ancestors of the flying fish.

On April 1, off Sandy Key near Cape Sable, Florida, there was an unusually favorable opportunity for the writer to watch the leap of a half-beak and a short quotation from his field notes of that date seems worth recording: "A Half-beak (probably *Hemiramphus*) of perhaps 9 in., skipped over the surface down wind with great speed. Initially it may have been more or less on its side, but towards the end of the leap (which probably exceeded 30 yards) it was right side up, its little anterior pectorals extended at right angles, and it appeared to maintain its impetus by skulling with the tail at intervals as it touched the surface." A surprisingly flying-fish-like performance.

J. T. NICHOLS,
New York, N. Y.

* See COPEIA, 1915, No. 19, p. 12-13.